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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,794	08/02/2001	John F. Broker	BRO009-162	4309
7590 05/25/2010 Whirlpool Patents Company -MD 0750 500 Renaissance Drive Suite 102 St. Joseph, MI 49085				
EXAMINER				
HAILU, TADESSE				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2173				
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

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*Ex parte* JOHN F. BROKER, DOUGLAS W. GARDNER, ALAN V.  
NEUBAUER, BRIAN L. NESS, and KIM L. WRIGHT

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Appeal 2009-010128  
Application 09/919,794  
Technology Center 2100

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Before Kimberly R. Jordan, *Division 1 Support Administrator*.

ORDER REMANDING APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This is a Director ordered remand under 37 CFR §41.35(c) for the matter identified below. Accordingly, the application is herewith being remanded to the Examiner.

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on April 21, 2009. A Docketing Notice was mailed and Appeal 2009-010128 was assigned on May 18, 2009.

Claim 15 of the instant application contains functional language that may be indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. *See Ex Parte Rodriguez*, 2009 WL 3756279 (BPAI 2009) and *Aristocrat Techs. Austl. Pty. Ltd. v. It'l. Game Tech.*, 521 F.3d 1328 (Fed Cir. 2008). On September 2, 2008, the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, John J. Love, issued a memorandum entitled “Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, when examining means (or step) plus function claim limitations under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph”, located at: [http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/section\\_112\\_6th\\_09\\_02\\_2008.pdf](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/section_112_6th_09_02_2008.pdf). Thus, there is a question as to whether claim 15 and the claims which depend upon this claim, meet the requirements of being definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is remanded to the Examiner to determine if claim 15 and the claims which depend upon this claim, meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

If there are any questions pertaining to this Order, please contact the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences at 571-272-9797.

peb

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